

[Being served with an order of protection](#) is a serious matter that requires immediate attention and careful action. Taking the right steps can help you avoid legal trouble and prepare an effective response. Use this checklist to understand what to do if you're facing a restraining order or protection order in Missouri. Remember, *always* consult with an [experienced criminal defense attorney](#) before heading into court.

You can learn more about what happens after you're served by downloading our free ebook, [Telling Your Side of the Story: Contesting an Order of Protection](#).

What to Do If You've Been Served With an Order of Protection

1. Read the Order Carefully

- Review all details in the order, including any restrictions on contact, proximity, or communication with the protected individual.
- Note any specific locations, such as home, work, or school, that you must avoid.

2. Comply with the Order Immediately

- Follow every restriction outlined in the order, even if you disagree with them as any violation can lead to serious legal consequences, including arrest.
- Avoid any direct or indirect contact with the person who filed the order, including through social media or third parties.

3. Consult with a Criminal Defense Attorney

- Speak with a [criminal defense attorney](#) experienced in [orders of protection](#) as soon as possible to discuss your options and the next steps.
- Your attorney can help you understand your rights, possible defenses, and how to handle any upcoming court dates related to the order.

4. Gather Evidence and Relevant Documentation

- Collect any documentation, such as text messages, emails, or witnesses, that may support your defense.
- Keep records of your whereabouts, especially if the order involves accusations of harassment or threats.

5. Prepare for the Hearing

- Be aware of the date and time of your hearing, as it's your opportunity to contest the order and the order will likely be granted if you don't appear.
- Work with your attorney to prepare your defense, including any evidence or witnesses who can support your case.

6. Avoid Confrontations and Remain Calm

- Do not attempt to contact or confront the protected individual, as this can be seen as a violation of the order.
- Maintain a calm and composed demeanor, especially in public or shared spaces, to avoid accusations of aggressive behavior.

7. Follow Any Temporary Child Custody or Visitation Restrictions

- If the order includes temporary child custody or visitation guidelines, adhere to them strictly to avoid further legal issues.
- Work with your attorney to discuss potential modifications if the order disrupts your parenting arrangements.

8. Keep a Record of Compliance

- Document your actions to show compliance with the order, including notes on any steps taken to avoid contact with the protected individual.
- Maintain records of any interactions with law enforcement or your attorney related to the order.

9. Plan for the Long-Term Outcome

- If the order of protection is extended, be prepared to adjust accordingly to avoid violations.
- Consult with your attorney about future steps, such as modifying or dissolving the order if circumstances change.

Served With an Order of Protection? Call Combs Waterkotte's Criminal Defense Lawyers First

Being served with an order of protection can feel overwhelming, but taking these steps can help you stay within the law and prepare your defense. For personalized legal support, contact Combs Waterkotte to discuss your options and next steps. You can call us at [wdac-phone] or [contact us online](#).